The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts as officially authorized actions of matters affecting labor, covering in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1915, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 MILLION DOLLARS
IN DEFENSE BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1614 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 11

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

American Fascists have not been stopped by the war. On the contrary, they are going stronger than ever. Every defeat for our Allies on the war front seems to give them more courage and more lung power.

These dollar-doughboys and profit patriots have launched a double-barreled pincers attack against the Roosevelt Administration and organized labor. They seem to be more anxious to lynch the forces of progress in America than to win the war against the Axis Powers.

The Fascist front is composed of a small group of Roosevelt-haters and labor-baiters in Congress, the remnants of the pre-war appeasers and a vast section of the reactionary press throughout the nation.

The front men in this campaign would not get anywhere without the support of the press. But they are receiving constant front-page publicity and this publicity is fanning the flames of class-hatred in America to a dangerous degree.

Calling the Roll

Even before the war started, the Scripps-Howard newspapers started the ball rolling. They attempted to undermine the New Deal by smearing organized labor, the chief political supporter of President Roosevelt.

Col. Bertie McCormick, of the Chicago Tribune, promptly enlisted in the war and he has been joined by members of his family who publish the New York Daily News and the Washington Times-Herald.

Now these sinister forces in the American press have been so thoroughly discredited in the past that their propaganda outpourings would have attracted little if any attention.

But by this time a large number of so-called respectable papers like the New York Times and the Washington Post—to mention just a couple—have been lured into the same camp.

That is the tragedy. The people of our country are not unduly influenced by the press—as evidenced by the last two Presidential campaigns—but to a certain extent they respect the sincerity and the patriotism of newspapers like the New York Times. How disillusioning it is now to find this great newspaper agreeing with the Hearsts, the McCormicks, the Roy Howards, the Heward Smiths, the Hoffmans and the whole caboodle of Fascist fulminators!

The Fourth Estate has been hoodwinked by the Fifth Column. Therein lies America's greatest danger today.

A Pincers Movement

The attacks against the President have taken the form of a typical pincers movement. On one side he is smeared because of alleged hoon-doggling in Federal agencies like the OCD. On the other he is assailed because he has remained faithful to labor and has refused to countenance the destruction of labor standards.

The campaign against labor now revolves around the closed shop, the right to strike, the forty-hour week and wage-freezing.

The truth is that the closed shop has not interfered with and cannot hinder the war production program. On the contrary, it will help speed up war production because it guarantees labor stability.

The truth is that the right to strike is one of the great freedoms that labor is fighting to protect in this war. There is no strike problem in America today because there are no strikes. Labor has voluntarily renounced the exercise of the right to strike for the duration and it has lived up to its pledge. Then what's all the shouting for?

The truth is that the forty-hour week does not limit the work day. It merely requires the payment of overtime for work in excess of forty hours a week. Business can well afford to pay that overtime because it is now making the greatest profits in history.

The truth is that wage-freezing at present levels would be a criminal denial of American opportunity to more than 55 per cent of the families in this country whose annual income today is less than the subsistence level.

But the American Fascists are not interested in truth. Like Hitler and Mussolini they thrive only on lying propaganda. We warn them that if they persist they are inviting the same disastrous fate that awaits Hitler and Mussolini.

Green Bids AFL Speed War Output With Union-Management Boards

Committees In Each Plant Can Help Boost Production, He Suggests

Washington, D. C.—After a conference with War Production Director Donald M. Nelson, President William Green called upon all AFL unions to form labor-management committees in every war material plant to help speed up production.

"We have made good on our no-strike pledge to the Government," Mr. Green declared in a letter to all affiliated organizations. "I now call upon you for a no-lag pledge equally necessary in our war effort.

"We must win the material side of this war in the factories. We must have the active cooperation of management and the workers who man the machines. Every hour gained may well shorten the war and save the lives of millions on the battlefront."

In urging the formation of labor-management committees in each factory, Mr. Green pointed out that such committees have long been advocated by the American Federation of Labor and were put to good use in many instances in the Rock Island arsenal during the last World War."

The committees, he emphasized, should be concerned "only with the technical side of increasing output and decreasing wastage of materials and time."

"Those who carry out the work orders," Mr. Green pointed out, "can make valuable and constructive suggestions on layout, supplies, tools, shortcut procedures, etc. We all know the familiar story of how unions have contributed to greater production in the railway shops, the printing and paper industries, the machine shops and many others.

"It is basic that the cooperative committee should keep its work separate from the work of the grievance committee and collective bargaining which are protective in nature. This separation is to prevent the introduction of controversies that would hinder cooperation in advancing production.

"Obviously these committees must be rooted in that mutual confidence that comes from voluntary action and joint control by management and union. Here is your opportunity to initiate this necessary service which lies within the province of free workers and a free economy. The success of such undertakings depends upon the genuineness of cooperation and the absence on both sides of desire or plan to dominate.

"Mr. Nelson, with full responsibility for war production, has discussed with me our AFL-CIO participation in war production. I hope you will immediately advise your local committees to take up this request of Chairman Nelson with their employers. Please ask your unions to report either to me or to my directors as to what I may have complete record of all committees and persons serving on these committees.

"Let us make our cooperation on the production front as much of an inspiration to democracies as General MacArthur's gallant aggression has been on the military front."

Prompt Action Urged To Adjust Pay of Nation's Postal Employes

Washington, D. C.—President William Green appealed to Congress for prompt action on two pay measures which seek to adjust the wages of postal employes to war-time requirements.

In a letter to the members of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, Mr. Green urged immediate favorable hearings on the Sweeney-Ford bill which have the endorsement of hundreds of thousands of postal employes organized into American Federation of Labor unions.

"Mr. Green points out that these postal employees have not received any wage increases since the start of the present emergency despite the sharp rise in living costs. At the same time they are called upon to buy defense bonds, to contribute to war welfare agencies and to help carry the added responsibilities of wartime living with the fact that members of their families have been called to the colors.

"There is no class of workers in America more devoted to our Government than postal employes," Mr. Green said. "I know they are willing to make such sacrifices as the exigencies of the war situation may decree. But, in calling upon them for sacrifice, we must recognize the principles of justice and fairness. The postal employes, who render such excellent service to the Government, are entitled now, without further delay, to wage adjustments which would square with the economic hardships of our national life. These wage increases are overdue."

Those affected by the proposed legislation are the members of the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, the Railway Mail Association and the Post Office Motor Vehicle Employes.

The national officers of these organizations are conducting a vigorous campaign in Congress to secure prompt enactment of both the Sweeney and Forand bills.

"No Strikes On In War Industries" Federal Agencies Inform Senate

Washington, D. C.—Not a single strike is holding up war production! In every particular, the workers in war industries are doing a magnificent job."

That significant statement was made on the floor of the Senate on the authority of two agencies responsible for keeping the wheels of production spinning.

Protesting continued efforts by foes of labor to harass workers with repressive legislation, Senator Joseph F. Guffey read statements sent him by the War Production Board and the National War Labor Board completely refuting wild charges hurled by labor-haters in both houses of Congress.

"I have received information from the War Production Board," he said, "that there is not a single man on strike in any plant in the country whose production is important or essential to prosecution of the war.

"Also, the National War Labor Board advises that there are 66 cases under consideration involving 873,439 workers. Not one of these is on strike.

"There may be here or there a few scattered, isolated strikes, but they are not in any industry essential to war production."

Senator James M. Mead also lashed out at the attempts to "smear" labor. He told the Senate that since the National War Labor Board was set up there have been only three cases of defiance of the board's machinery for peaceful settlement of disputes.

Only one of these involved a union. This local, in Detroit, did not immediately act on a board appeal to return to work, but within three hours, on the plea of responsible leaders of the union, the members went back to their jobs.

The other two were cases of flagrant employer disobedience.

Roosevelt OK's Limited Vacations And Recreation For War Workers

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt gave his official O. K. to recreation and vacations for workers. He said they were "necessary and beneficial" in promoting "an over-all efficiency by relieving the strain of war work."

The President emphasized, however, that "recreation as usual is just as bad as business as usual." The text of his statement follows:

"Many people have written to the Executive Office asking for some statement of the general attitude of the Federal Government toward the continuation of various sports, dramatics, concerts, vacations and general recreation and amusements during the war effort. Most of these letters point out that the writers are anxious to do their utmost to help in the prosecution of the war and wonder whether such activities are considered to be harmful to the prosecution of the war.

"It is, of course, obvious that the war effort is the primary task of everybody in the nation. All other activities must be considered secondary. At the same time it has been proven beyond doubt that human beings cannot sustain continued and prolonged work for very long, without obtaining a proper relation between work on the one hand and relaxation and recreation on the other.

"Such recreation may come by participation in, or attendance at, various sports, motion pictures, dramatics, concerts and similar events. All of them have a necessary and beneficial part in promoting an over-all efficiency by relieving the strains of war work.

"The actual occurrence of these gatherings, of course, must depend on local safety conditions of the moment.

"Within reasonable limits, I believe that the war effort will not be hampered but actually improved by sensible participation in healthy recreational pursuits. It must be borne in mind, however, that 'recreation as usual' is just as bad as 'business as usual.'

"Recreation under present conditions can be undertaken solely with the purpose of building up the body and mind and with the chief thought that this will help win the war."

AFL Proposes 6-Point Program To Control Inflation Without Clamping Ceilings On Wages

War Profits Reach New Peak

Who is getting rich out of this war? The table below, compiled from official sources by the AFL Monthly Survey, tells the story. It shows that in 1941 more than 55 percent of American families received less than $1,000 a year, the minimum subsistence income for the average family of four. At the same time, net corporation profits equalled the all-time peak of 1929, the boom year. They are even higher now, with increased war production.

American Family Income		Corporation Profits (In billions of dollars)	
Income per Year	Percent of All Families 1941		Net Income After All Taxes and Costs
Under $ 500	12.1%		
Under 750	22.2	Last War 1916	6.4
Under 1,000	33.7	1917	6.7
Under 1,500	55.2	1918	4.6
Under 2,000	68.8	1929	7.2
$1,000–$2,000	34.9%	This War 1939	4.2
2,000–3,000	17.9	1940	5.5
3,000–5,000	8.9	1941	7.2
Over $5,000	4.6		

Victory Is Labor's Sole Objective, Meany Tells Detroit Workers

Detroit, Mich.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, declared in an address here that "nothing is really important to any of us these days except ultimate and complete victory for our nation."

"Let us remember that the worker of today is the mobile member of an actually a soldier in overalls," Mr. Meany said. "Let us remember that production must go on without stopping, day without delay, at a faster and ever faster pace.

"Let us remember that America's workers are carrying the responsibility of providing not only for our people but for the liberty-loving people of all the world. Let us remember that it depends on how well we do our job as to what kind of world this is going to be for many generations to come."

Speaking before the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, the AFL secretary-treasurer emphasized that peak war production requires the maintenance of high morale among American wage-earners. He condemned the "foolish or vicious twist" who are currently indulging in unwarranted "sniping" at labor.

"Anyone who attempts, for selfish purposes, to impair the morale of the American worker is guilty of an act of treason," he said.

Pointing out that American labor in the last two years has written a patriotic record which is unequalled anywhere in the world, "and I include Great Britain in this statement," Mr. Meany said there is no excuse whatsoever for the activities of those who seek to use the national crisis to shackle workers with restrictive laws and to erase existing protective labor legislation from the statute books.

"It is in the nation's interest that workers on whom we depend for victory should work under conditions conducive to their health and the health and welfare of their families," he asserted. "Read a report on the worker's conditions and you break down his morale and deal a body blow to his productive capacity."

Mr. Meany urged the immediate employment of new workers and the addition of new shifts in war factories as the way to attain peak production, rather than by the device of compelling the same workers to put ten and twelve hours a day at their jobs.

"Talk of a labor shortage is poppycock," Mr. Meany said. "We still have millions unemployed. Let us put them to work on this vital victory program."

Mr. Meany, referring to the subject of unity in labor's ranks, expressed the hope that differences between the AFL and the CIO might be speedily adjusted under the spur of "the spirit of unity engendered among labor men by our nation's needs." He added:

"Labor has shown that it is intelligent enough and patriotic enough to realize that this is the time to put factional differences aside for the nation's welfare. In my opinion there has never been a sounder trade union reason for a divided labor movement. There is no sound reason for division today. Let us hope that the spirit of unity engendered among labor men by the need which is forced upon us by national emergency will lead to a speedy adjustment of the differences which now keep us apart. The AFL is ready. Our peace committee is still intact and waiting for a word from the CIO for a resumption of meetings designed to bring about a single united movement, which we need now and surely will need more than ever after this war is over."

Manufacturers, Posing As Patriots, Ask New Taxes To Soak The Poor

Washington, D. C.—When the National Association of Manufacturers unveiled what had been advertised as a self-sacrificial tax program it turned out to be just a proposal to shift the corporate-tax schedules sponsored by the Treasury and to substitute for them a general 8 per cent sales tax which would hit workers hardest.

The NAM's first witness before the tax committee, speaking on behalf of 80 per cent of the nation's war production manufacturers, had decided that "all corporations and individuals with income should be taxed to the maximum of their ability to pay for the terrific burden of this war." This statement was widely hailed by the press as an indication that the NAM had been overcome by patriotism.

But it was the name of NAM that spoke to the House Ways and Means Committee when it came to talking turkey. The NAM offered a program which would let the manufacturers off scot-free and put the burden on small consumers and protect war profits.

It is apparent that the NAM has not been overcome by anything more than concern for the self-interest of its members.

GOV. LEHMAN ASKS RISE IN BENEFITS TO JOBLESS

Albany, N. Y.—A 20 per cent increase in maximum unemployment insurance benefits, with liberalization of the law to cover partially unemployed workers, was recommended to the Legislature by Governor Lehman.

In a message inspired by the immediate employment of men and women left temporarily idle while plants are converted to war production, the Governor also urged extension of the maximum benefit period to twenty weeks and reduction of the waiting period to one week.

Reviewing the unavoidable dislocation of industrial labor during the conversion of peacetime plants, Mr. Lehman said, this situation may well persist for over a year.

"Fortunately, we have in our unemployment insurance system a means of meeting this problem in a planned and orderly fashion."

The Governor recommended increasing the maximum weekly payment from $15 to $18, and lengthening the maximum benefit period from thirteen to twenty weeks. The present waiting period is three weeks.

POST-WAR WORK PLAN URGED FOR NEW YORK

Albany, N. Y.—The Joint Legislative Committee on Industrial and Labor Relations in a report submitted to the Legislature and Governor Herbert H. Lehman, urged the creation of a temporary state commission to plan in advance for the problems of New York's share of a possible 20,000,000 unemployed in the reconstruction period which will follow the war.

The report said such a commission, which has the approval of the Governor, would be to outline a gigantic public works program which, it said, would provide jobs for those who are now needlessly idle and also safeguard industries when such industries are released from their present emergency task of manufacturing war material.

Green Endorses USO Fund Drive, Urges All Organizations To Help

Washington, D. C.—President William Green gave the official endorsement of the American Federation of Labor to the USO War Fund Campaign to be conducted by the USO between May 11 and July 4. He said:

"Five million men and women who make up the American Federation of Labor are in this war with everything they've got. They are the production soldiers of America. Their sons and brothers and sisters and near ones have rallied to the colors in the armed forces and meet the enemy on the battle fronts.

"An opportunity now presents itself to the members of the American Federation of Labor to do a good turn for these boys in uniform. The USO is showing us the way.

"Through the USO each of us can make a personal contribution to bring a little bit of home to our fighting men wherever they are sent. To them the USO means friendliness, cheer, the little comforts that come when men are far from their families and friends.

"We, who are serving on the home front and giving our strength and energy to provide arms for our soldiers, sailors and marines, want them to know that our hearts are with them. We can demonstrate this in a tangible way by contributing to the USO."

In a letter to state and city branches, the AFL President added:

"In order to make our cooperation with the USO campaign effective, we need the active help of all Central Labor Unions and State Federations of Labor. I suggest that each organization designate a representative to work on a voluntary basis with the USO officials in its territory. In this way the membership of all local unions can be contacted and urged to contribute to this worthy cause. I feel assured that you will be glad to assist in this patriotic endeavor."

NAZI RULE RESISTED BY LUXEMBOURG LABOR

New York, N. Y.—Continued stubborn resistance of the people of the tiny Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Nazi dictatorship is revealed in underground information reaching New York. Hitherto unknown even beyond the small borders is especially strong among the workers. Refusal to work means severe reprisals against them and their families, frequently culminating in deportation. Therefore open revolt is rare but various methods of slowing up production is effectively applied.

The workers derive great hope from the words of their former trade union leader, Pierre Krier, Minister of Labor since 1937 and now living abroad, who frequently broadcasts to Luxembourgers by radio. It was Krier who urged the go-slow movement in industry and the non-cooperation policy undermining the Nazi conquerors.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY ADOPTED BY ELECTRICAL WORKERS

New York City—Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, an AFL affiliate, whose slogan has been, "The 50 hour week in practice and the 30 hour week in principle," announced through its business manager, Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., that this is the war emergency its 17,000 construction, maintenance and service men will henceforth work eight hours a day on all electrical jobs.

The decision in favor of the longer work day was ratified by a general membership meeting of the union.

More Than Half American Families Still Receive Starvation Wages

Washington, D. C.—Citing facts on workers' income and corporation profits to prove that wage ceilings are not justifiable, the American Federation of Labor offered the nation a six-point program to curb inflation.

In a shattering reply to advocates of wage "freezing" at current levels, the AFL submitted official statistics showing that in 1941 more than 55 per cent of American families had an annual income of less than $1,500, the minimum subsistence wage for a family of four.

During the same year, corporation net profits climbed to the staggering total of $7,200,000,000, equalled only in the boom year of 1929.

Conceding that wage increases can add to the danger of inflation if unproperly handled, the Federation proposed this program:

1—Increased social security taxes for the purpose of lifting benefits, expanding coverage and providing for temporary and permanent disability.

2—Increase the sale of defense bonds by voluntary pay allotment plans throughout industry. The AFL drive will divert a billion dollars of labor's buying power to this patriotic use.

3—Increase income taxes for those who have surplus incomes over and above the amount needed for health and efficiency.

4—Increase corporation income taxes to prevent unconscionable profits.

5—Where recipients are willing, arrange to pay wage increases in defense stamps and bonds.

6—Ration scarce goods on a strictly fair and equable basis at reasonable price levels.

These measures were recommended by the AFL Monthly Survey as supplement action already taken by the Government to place controls on prices and rents.

The survey pointed out that as a result of reemployment and wage increases consumers' buying power may reach 80 billion dollars in 1942 while only 66 billion dollars worth of consumers' goods will be produced on which this money can be spent. This 15 billion dollar surplus may accelerate inflation if not properly controlled and diverted to constructive uses. The survey added:

"Price Administrator Leon Henderson has said that our standard of living may fall below that of 1932, the depth of the depression; that is, the amount of consumers' goods available will be less than was available at that time. However, there is no need for the people of 1942 to suffer. There is a total amount of goods will be less, but it must be distributed, through rationing, price control with licensing, wage increases, so workers have adequate purchasing power to prevent food, clothing, medical care and other necessities for all the people in our country, without in any way delaying war production, all wage earners should be allowed the opportunity to secure a decent living standard. Otherwise, they will not be able to contribute their full, hard, and vital share to the war effort."

LABOR PACTS PREVENT STRIKES, OFFICIALS SAY

Washington, D. C.—"The nation need have no fear of any major strikes for the duration of the war." That assurance was given the House Appropriations Committee by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins and her principal lieutenant, Assistant Secretary Dan W. Tracy.

"Agreements between management and organized labor, these officials said, are guaranteeing that production will continue without serious interruption. Miss Perkins said there may be "isolated strikes" from time to time, but they will be small and will be promptly settled by the "combined efforts of labor and industry."

FIRST 100% UNION HOTEL IN BOSTON WON BY AFL

Boston, Mass.—The Hotel Bradford was registered as the first 100 per cent union hotel in Boston when it signed an agreement covering all employes with Local 277, Hotel and Restaurant Workers International Alliance, AFL affiliate.

The contract provides $2 to $5 weekly raises, a union shop and a union hiring hall. The local recently launched a drive to unionize all the city's hotels.

Extra Edition

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WHOLE NO. 1614 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 11

Roosevelt Denounces Anti-Labor Propaganda Drive; Hails AFL-CIO Voluntary Aid To War Production; Army And Navy Chiefs Oppose Restrictive Laws

EDITORIAL

President Roosevelt has spoken.

Those intrusted with supervising the job of war production for the Army, the Navy and the Maritime Commission also have spoken.

They have spoken with one voice.

They have declared in clear and unmistakable language that labor is doing a fine job for America, that there is no strike problem because there are no strikes, that the forty-hour week should be retained as a standard because it does not limit working hours and that there is no reason why time-and-a-half overtime should not be paid for work in excess of forty hours a week.

They have not only presented these facts to the American public. They have also stated flatly that there is no justification for enacting compulsory legislation restricting labor's rights and destroying labor's standards.

Surely the views and recommendations of our Commander-in-Chief and his trusted aides should convince any honest American!

But the labor-haters in Congress and the press are still continuing full-blast their vicious campaign to crush labor and shatter national unity.

The enemies of labor now claim support from the people "back home." They point to the mysterious flood of messages which has been pouring into the offices of Senators and Congressmen declaring that the signers will not vote to re-elect members of Congress who do not vote for a law to abolish strikes and the forty-hour week.

We call these messages "mysterious." That is because they are all worded identically. They are printed or mimeographed on various types and colors of cards and paper to disguise the fact that they have the same secret origin and sponsorship.

Certain cowardly and skulking interests which do not dare to come out into the open are behind this campaign. They are duping and deluding the citizens who sign these messages. They are capitalizing on the "public misinformation" which they helped to create and which the President himself is now trying to dispel. They are trying to put the heat on Congress.

This secret and dastardly campaign should be investigated and exposed by Congress itself.

But meanwhile, the men and women of labor have a glorious opportunity to help themselves, to encourage their friends in Congress and to put the fear of public wrath into their enemies in Congress.

The way to do this is for every union member to write to his Congressman and Senators and tell them what's what.

Write in your own words! Write from the heart! Write the truth! But write immediately!

Delay will only hurt you and every other worker in America. Let the mighty voice of labor speak!

AFL Offers War Taxation Program Fair To All Groups In America

Opposes Sales Tax and Lowering of Exemptions, Urges Stiff Levies on Surplus Incomes

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor sent to Congress a war tax program based upon the principle that each group in the population will bear its fair share of the tax burden.

Highlights of the recommendations follow:

1. Surplus income of individuals and corporations should be taxed heaviest.

2. Payroll taxes should be confined to Social Security purposes. If Social Security taxes are increased, benefits should be raised and widened accordingly.

3. Federal sales taxes on food, clothing and other necessaries are opposed. If necessary as a last resort, heavier taxes should be imposed on selected luxuries instead of a general retail or manufacturers' sales tax.

4. Present personal exemptions for single and married persons should not be lowered.

5. An excess profits tax on all corporate earnings above 6 or 7 per cent of invested capital should be levied, as recommended by the Treasury Department.

6. Retroactive tax legislation is opposed.

7. Loopholes in the law unfairly benefiting small groups of taxpayers should be eliminated.

8. Inheritance and gift taxes should be increased.

9. Capital gains taxation should be reviewed and unnecessary hardships removed.

10. Excessive taxes which endanger the life of the American system of private enterprise should be avoided, even at the cost of paying a larger share of the war expense by borrowing.

11. Federal, State and municipal taxation should be correlated.

12. All future Federal bonds should be subject to income taxes but there should be no Federal taxes on State and local government securities.

13. Non-war expenditures of the Government should be postponed or curtailed wherever possible without injuring important social services.

The recommendations were prepared by the Tax Committee of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. The committee consisted of Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Vice President Matthew Woll and Vice President G. M. Bugniazet.

Their report emphasized that new taxes necessary to finance the war should be levied in a manner that will result in a minimum of hardship to workers from falling living standards and a minimum dislocation of private industry.

"This means," the report said, "that the bulk of the nation's tax revenues should come from surplus income, and that the minimum should come from those contributors earning less than enough to provide a health and decency standard of living for themselves and their dependents."

Knudsen, Patterson, Bard and Land Join in Praise of Labor's Record

Washington, D. C.—Army, Navy and Maritime production chiefs told a special Senate inquiry that there is no need for enacting legislation restricting labor.

Lining up solidly behind President Roosevelt on this vital issue were Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, Lieut. Gen. William S. Knudsen, War Department production expert and formerly head of General Motors; Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph A. Bard and Admiral Emory S. Land of the Maritime Commission.

One by one they appeared before a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee and testified that it would be harmful and destructive to the nation's war effort to repeal the Wage-Hour Act, to adopt anti-strike laws or to enact any of the numerous anti-labor bills now pending in Congress.

All four officials also opposed proposals to draft or regiment labor.

On the whole, they joined in declaring that the nation, with the voluntary cooperation of labor, has done a fine job in switching from peace-time to war production on a vast scale within two years.

At the same time, Speaker Rayburn warned the House of Representatives it would be a tragic mistake to enact anti-labor legislation.

The Speaker told a press conference that America's war effort is harmed by indiscriminate criticism of labor, management and the Government.

He proclaimed that strikes in war industries have been reduced "almost to zero," regardless of what "is said by some writers and speakers."

The presiding officer of the House of Representatives, whence most anti-labor proposals are emanating, declared official records on March 17 showed that fewer than 100 out of 7,000,000 war production workers were on strike.

Those who are smearing labor, he said, are doing free of charge a job that "Hitler and Tojo would have paid a lot of money for."

BULLETIN!

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt plans to make a radio address to the nation in the near future giving the facts on labor's cooperation in America's war effort.

The President believes there exists a great deal of public misinformation on this subject, due largely to anti-labor statements in the press and in Congress.

Therefore, he feels it might be constructive for him to dispel any false impressions that may prevail by telling the truth about the wonderful way labor is helping America turn out the ships, planes, guns and tanks necessary to defeat the Axis powers.

WLB WILL CONSIDER CLOSED SHOP DEMANDS

Washington, D. C.—By unanimous vote, the members of the War Labor Board ruled that demands for a union or closed shop are a proper subject for consideration by the board.

All four employer representatives on the board joined with the public and labor representatives in this decision. The employer representatives were A. W. Hawkes, President of the United States Chamber of Commerce; Walter Teagle, chairman of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey; Roger D. Lapham, chairman of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company and George H. Mead, President of the Mead Corporation.

FDR Defends Labor No-Strike Record and Urges 40-Hour Week Be Maintained

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt, at an epochal press conference, told the nation that the new anti-labor propaganda drive is based on bunk.

The President effectively exploded the fiction that labor troubles are menacing war production.

On the contrary, he emphasized:

1—That there is no "strike problem" in America today because there are no strikes.

2—That the Wage-Hour Act does not limit working hours to forty a week and that, in fact, all war industries are now operating on much longer schedules.

3—That there is no reason why time-and-a-half overtime should not be paid for work in excess of forty hours a week.

The President flatly blamed newspaper distortions and irresponsible Congressional oratory for creating "the amazing state of public misinformation" on labor.

He also issued a warning against rushing half-baked, anti-labor legislation into enactment at this time when things are going along pretty well. Congress, he pointed out, could not pass a law that would make a man turn out more work. That, he observed, was up to the enthusiasm of the individual. Parades, band playing and a pat on the back for the men who are doing a good job would do far more to stir up enthusiasm, he suggested, than restrictive laws.

The President's illuminating lecture on labor matters to the press followed an hour's conference with his "War Labor Cabinet," composed of leaders of the American Federation of Labor and the CIO.

AFL President William Green declared the conference was "very satisfactory" and added:

"We found from an examination of all the facts that war production was moving along in a most satisfactory way.

"The full effort of labor is being mobilized behind the nation's war production program. There are no strikes anywhere in the country that are holding up production.

"The President agreed with us that the performance of labor in the production program is exceptional and highly commendable.

"The President expressed complete satisfaction with the spirit manifested by the AFL and the CIO in eliminating jurisdictional questions that might cause production delays.

"He also agreed with us that the 40-hour week standard should be maintained and that all work in excess of forty hours a week should be paid for at overtime rates of time and a half.

"The President further agreed that the policies of organized labor will make it possible to effect continuous, seven-day-week operation of war industries if materials are available and industry helps."

CIO President Philip Murray chimed in:

"It was agreed that voluntary action on the part of labor to yield its right to strike was a more satisfactory answer to the problem of production and national unity than resort to restrictive legislation by Congress."

At his press conference, President Roosevelt spoke of the part newspapers and irresponsible speeches in Congress have played in contributing to public misinformation on labor matters.

He told of receiving a letter from a professional economist who drew the conclusion that Japan would not have declared war and the United States would not have lost the Philippines or the Dutch East Indies if 30,000,000 man-days had not been lost by strikes in the first twenty-one months of the defense program.

The President said, with a smile, that he had replied with even worse news if it had not been for the common cold we would be in Berlin today, as that ailment caused a loss of 60,000,000 man-days in the same period.

One false impression abroad in the country, the President continued, was that the Federal Wage-Hour law forbids men to work more than forty hours a week. The fact is, he emphasized, that there is not and never has been any law limiting the work week to forty hours and almost all of the munitions plans are working more than forty hours a week right now.

It is true, he said, that some plants are working only twenty hours a week but that is due to shortages of materials.

Throughout his discussion, the President emphasized the importance of voluntary action to speed up war production. He told how labor had given its pledge not to strike after the war began and said that, as a result, there are probably fewer strikes in the United States today than anywhere in the world, unless it's Germany where the workers are regimented.

There's no strike problem today, he stated flatly. That's the big point, he emphasized.

He criticized newspapers for the over-emphasis they give to what he called two-bit strikes which involve only about fifteen men and which do not hurt war production. He specifically assailed New York newspapers for making front page news out of a stoppage of fifteen metal workers. He said he had never heard of the company and expressed doubt that the stoppage was of sufficient importance to deserve big headlines in the press.

This was, he said, an example of how public misinformation is created by the newspapers.

We must all get a sense of proportion, the President urged. Labor has given a no-strike pledge and is living up to it. The War Labor Board is functioning pretty well. There is, therefore, no reason to get excited or denunciatory about occasional minor exceptions from the rule.

BOR

WE PLEDGE— 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN DEFENSE BONDS FOR VICTORY

ecretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 12

And Roosevelt; egislative Curbs; Propaganda Drive

Front Against Enemies of Labor And Deal Fights Vicious Propaganda

rton, D. C.—Led by President Roosevelt and AFL William Green, an imposing array of outstanding Gov- d labor officials publicly exposed the lies and misrepre- on which the current anti-labor drive is based.

esented a united and powerful front against any legis- would abolish the 40-hour week, wipe out overtime re- outlaw strikes or otherwise destroy labor standards.

sident threw all his influence into the fight against realizing they were actually trying to destroy the New ecognizing in them the same reactionaries that have foreign and domestic policies in the past.

en, appearing before a Senate Appropriations Subcom- led the anti-labor lies one by one with forceful facts. that labor is on the job and has made tremendous increasing war production.

nailed by Mr. Green was the charge that the 40-hour week limits Actually prevailing time schedules in war industries are from a week per man, he showed.

nailed by Mr. Green was the charge that the required overtime me and a half for hours in excess of forty a week are retarding d increasing the nation's war bill. He proved that employers not object to paying overtime and that savings from increased ore than absorb the slightly higher labor cost.

nailed by Mr. Green was the charge that strikes are delaying on. He proved that time lost through strikes since the war has imal. He declared in ringing tones that labor has voluntarily ikes and will not countenance strikes for the duration.

action Director Nelson, Army and Navy chiefs, Secretary of s, Wage-Hour Administrator Walling and a host of other Gov- Congressional leaders fully corroborated Mr. Green's statements aker's enthusiastic cooperation in the war effort.

from Chicago, AFL Vice President Daniel J. Tobin stalwartly 's war record and assailed industry for delaying war production. also took the offensive in this regard, giving direct evidence to mmittee that many employers have shown reluctance in convert- ustries to war production and have accumulated vast stores of tured supplies and materials for civilian use in direct defiance of rders. Lack of these supplies is hampering war production, Mr. d.

ut spokesmen like Nelson and Walling also decried the attacks laying right into Hitler's hands by creating disunity in America. ere, Mr. Green asked Congress to investigate secretly organized campaigns in Oklahoma and other Southern States to discredit e anti-labor legislation.

of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee were deeply im- r. Green's testimony and expressed regret that the newspapers nentators have not given the public the facts about labor's tre- ributions to the nation's war effort.

ed with Mr. Green and President Roosevelt that compulsion can- e workers to give America better service than they are already measure whenever the opportunity is afforded them.

urray Blasts Anti-Labor Slanders

By the HON. JAMES E. MURRAY, *United States Senator from Montana*

ring statement by Sena- ous broadcast over the m during the American Air Program.)

elicious cloud has been s the United States— designed to create dis- fication among our peo- s a dangerous situation get to the right or wrong rancor or delay.

hours the newspapers of ld bring about complete g and unity; but instead ion of the press is con- unconscionably supporting e of democracy who know r can be lost if public ues irresolute and un- is the technique which the ruin of Europe.

ld issue of the 40-hour the earmarks of a studied e profits above patriotic s are being diverted from Japs and set to fighting Editorial half-truths and truths have given our mpression that our labor production for war. They us to believe that by ge diseases addressed to a retarding the war pro- ner tell you as an indis- supported by indisputable out of approximately 8,- le now employed in war n than 100 are on strike. e subcommittee studying on has just reported that production is not due to r laws but to failure of material preventing max- tion. Just read that re- ted by Republican and Democratic Senators alike, giving the lie to this libel against labor.

All this talk of repeal comes from men who are chiefly interested in destroying our laws intended to improve the economic and social welfare of the people. They point to the heroic Bataan who are going through hell for $21 a month. "Why," they ask, "should anyone object to working overtime for the same wage as a soldier?" The fact is the soldier gave up his share of the family income and duty of support when he entered the service. The American soldier will not be overjoyed to learn now that his family's income is proposed to be still further cut and his service to our country used as the excuse. And all this in the face of the fact that industry is making scandalous profits.

What is it that we want here? Why, maximum production. How are we to get it—by cracking heads? Absolutely not. We will get maximum production only in one way—by voluntary cooperation of free American labor and free American industry. The very labor standards we fought so many years to gain are now helping to make possible a united people and total war production. Destroy that and you will block production. Repeal will not benefit our country but only increase wry profits and create resentment. It will bring only one certain result: confusion and discord at a time when national unity is a matter of life and death. Those who would thus wreck our national unity are as guilty as any of the fascist and nazi enemies who would wreck our industrial plants and military effort.

We Americas! Let your opposition to this scheme be neither too little nor too late.

Are With You To Finish," Green Cables Australian Labor

rton, D. C.—President William Green of the American Fed- Labor today cabled to the "free and unconquerable workers" of a pledge that American labor "will do its job" to rush war tralia as quickly as possible.

ten's message, addressed to Albert E. Monk, president of the an Council of Trade Unions at Melbourne, follows:

ngs from the free and unconquerable workers of America to nd unconquerable workers of Australia! We are with you to nce of our strength.

as placed you directly in the path of our common foe. Your r fight, your front is our front, your victory will be our vic- al.

ia has sent you our great military hero, General MacArthur. sent our own boys to fight beside you. Our ships, tanks, guns will speed in an unending stream across the Pacific to your shores until victory is won.

"In behalf of our soldiers of production on the home front, I pledge that American labor will do its job so that those supplies will reach you as quickly as possible."

world.

"There is no class in America today more devoted to democracy, more loyal to American ideals and more eager to perform its full duty than the working men and women of this country."

operate his plant 168 hours a week by paying time and a half to individual workers after they had put in 40 hours.

"There has been too much confusion about that," he said. "I don't hauling."

Company plant to choose a representative for collective bargaining resulted in a victory for AFL Federal Union No. 22567 by a vote of 181 to 16.